

### **Newton-Mosharafa Fund - Project Brief**

The Newton-Mosharafa Fund is £20 million, five year science and innovation partnership between the UK and Egypt.

It aims to advance the capacity of the Egyptian science sector; increase the amount of quality scientific research and innovation being carried out in Egypt; and help mitigate social and economic challenges in Egypt through the development of new research and innovation. Through all of this work, we aim to establish and maintain sustainable, long term and mutual beneficial partnerships between the British and Egyptian science and innovation sectors.

The Fund will cover **three areas of activity**:

- (i) **People:** building the skills and knowledge of British and Egyptian scientists through training and researcher mobility schemes
- (ii) **Programmes:** supporting British and Egyptian scientists conduct joint research projects on development topics
- (iii) **Translation:** ensuring that the research being done in universities and research centres can be commercialised or otherwise harnessed for the benefit of wider society

It will support activities through **priority themes** as suggested by the Egyptian government:

- Sustainable water management
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable food production
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Affordable and inclusive healthcare

### **Funding**

Collective funding for Newton-Mosharafa is £4 million a year for five years, with the UK and Egypt each contributing £2 million a year. The funding on the UK side comes from the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. In Egypt, the funding is contributed by the Ministries of Scientific Research, and Higher Education.

### **Partners**

The fund is administered in Egypt jointly by the British Council and British Embassy, in partnership with the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund, and Cultural Affairs and Missions Section. Programmes are delivered by a range of UK partners, including the British Council and British Academy.

### **Global Newton Fund**

The Newton Fund supports science and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging powers. Worth up to £750 million, it forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment and its primary focus is to develop partner countries' research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. The UK Government will contribute £75 million each year from 2014/15 for five years and this funding will be matched either by partner countries. The Newton Fund is running in 15 of the biggest emerging powers around the world. Egypt is the only Middle Eastern/North African country to be taking

part in the Fund. In Egypt, the Fund is called the Newton-Mosharafa Fund, named after Isaac Newton and eminent Egyptian physicist Ali Moustafa Mosharafa.

For more information about the Newton Fund, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/newton-fund-building-science-and-innovation-capacity-in-developing-countries/newton-fund-building-science-and-innovation-capacity-in-developing-countries>

### **14/15 (Year 1) Achievements**

In 2014-15 – the first year of the Fund, we awarded numerous research grants and engaged with over 500 researchers. These include:

- 64 students who received scholarships to do their PhDs in UK universities;
- 25 young researchers who were awarded short-term fellowships to do research in the UK;
- 9 research partnerships linking British and Egyptian institutions to do joint research projects worth up to £300,000 each;
- almost 350 researchers participated in bilateral workshops or conferences.
- over 100 scholars trained in research communications.

### **Proposed activities under Newton-Mosharafa 15/16 (Year 2)**

**1. PhD Scholarship Programme:** Scholarships for Egyptians to undertake doctoral research in the UK. We will fund PhD students at Egyptian universities to spend one year at a UK university undertaking research (with the degree being awarded by the home institution).

**2. Institutional Links:** Research and innovation collaborations between universities or consortia of universities, non-profits and businesses from the UK and Egypt. Researchers can apply for grants of £50,000 to £300,000 over two years to develop these Institutional Links. These grants can cover:

**3. Researcher Links Travel Grants:** Early career researchers will spend three to six months in the partner country working on joint research projects.

**4. Researcher Links Workshops:** bringing together a bilateral cohort of early career researchers to take part in workshops focussing on building links for future collaboration and enhancing the researchers' career opportunities.

**5. Researcher Connect training:** Workshops to increase the communications skills of Egyptian researchers, allowing them to better communicate their research and to better engage in international research conversations. Training will focus on:

**6. Capacity building for innovation and knowledge exchange:** workshops, study tours and other training to build the capacity of the Egyptian research and private sectors to better engage with each other, to facilitate more effective commercialisation of research for the benefit of wider society.

**7. Advanced Fellowships:** Grants to partnerships for capacity building and research projects in social sciences and humanities.

**8. Leaders in Innovation:** Funding to support Egyptian researchers learn how to commercialise their research outputs/ideas.